

World TB Day 2004

March 24, 2004

Every breath counts... stop TB now!



World TB Day, held on March 24 each year, is an occasion for people around the world to raise awareness about the international health threat presented by tuberculosis (TB). It is a day to recognize the collaborative efforts of all countries involved in fighting TB. This is an opportunity for all countries to spread the word that TB can be cured, controlled, and, with diligent efforts and sufficient resources, eventually eliminated.

History of World TB Day

In the late 19th century, TB killed one out of every seven people living in the United States and Europe. On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the TB bacillus. At the time, his discovery was the most important step taken towards the control and elimination of this deadly disease.

In 1982, a century after Dr. Koch's announcement, the first World TB Day was sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD). The event was intended to educate the public about the devastating health and economic consequences of TB, its effect on developing countries, and its continued tragic impact on global health.

Where Are We Today?

TB today is very much alive, and remains a threat to the health and well-being of people around the world. Still classified as the second leading killer of adults globally, more than 2 million deaths each year are TB-related. World TB Day is an opportunity to educate the public about this communicable disease.

"We're on the right track... and we're still in the running!" -

Kentucky Tuberculosis Control Program

